

Let's not forget on March 8, 2003, Halliburton was given a secret, sole-source contract for improvements to Iraq's oil infrastructure. Halliburton did not have to compete with any other company for this contract. And why is Halliburton getting this sweetheart deal? I think it has something to do with the fact that the Vice President of the United States is the former CEO of this very same company. But his connections are not former connections—they still exist to this day. Despite what he says to the press about having severed all ties

to Halliburton, DICK CHENEY received almost \$400,000 in deferred salary from his former company in 2001 and 2002, and he still has 433,333 unexercised stock options. The facts speak for themselves: DICK CHENEY is not fully divested of his connections to Halliburton, and yet this same company receives U.S. Government contracts worth billions of dollars for which they are not required to place a single bid. This is unfair to the American people, and this is downright wrong.

This is not about supporting the troops. This is about supporting companies with ties to the Bush-Cheney administration by giving them get-rich-quick deals at the expense of U.S. taxpayers. The amendment that Congressman WAXMAN has introduced is a reasonable way to bring some sense and some oversight into a bill that is otherwise no more than a bailout for President Bush's failed policies. I urge my colleagues to vote for the Waxman amendment.